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Gardner Assails CIA-Student Tie

By JERRY GREENE

Washington, Feb. 20 (NEWS Bureau)—Health, Education and Welfare Secretary John Gardner, a member of the Presidential CIA review board, branded today the intelligence agency's undercover dealings with student organizations as "a mistake."

He said he was opposed to any entanglement of the CIA with educational activities or institutions. At the same time, in a statement from his office, Gardner added:

"I don't know any sensible person who believes that this nation can afford to be without a secret intelligence agency, and I have little respect for critics who give themselves airs of moral superiority in an attack on an activity they know to be necessary."

Secretary Gardner

Gardner's comment on CIA distribution of funds to the student groups came as debate flared anew in Congress over the extension of intelligence agency operations through business and labor organizations. Critics and defenders of the CIA sounded off vigorously.

Agency Is Defended

Rep. Wayne Hays (D-Ohio) said in a floor speech: "The tragedy is that the easy way has been as corrupting to the integrity of American education as it has been unnecessary."

Sen. Milton Young (N. D.), ranking GOP member of the Senate CIA watchdog committee, defending the agency, said: "The good it does far outweighs any errors."

Rep. Richard McCarthy (D-N. Y.) accused the CIA of acting "like keystone cops," while Chairman Mendel Rivers (D-S. C.) of the House Armed Services Committee, said: "If you get CIA into Congress for investigation you will take its heart out."

Staff members of the foundations subcommittee of the House Small Business Committee revealed that this group, under Chairman Wright Patman (D-Tex.), fell by accident into an almost complete disclosure of the CIA operations through foundations in 1964. The student connection was not discovered, however, and few paid any attention.

At that time, Patman named nine foundations which were linked with CIA and used as a conduit for disbursal of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Patman ran across the CIA trail when he was checking on the tax exemption status of the multi-million-dollar J. M. Kaplan Fund. This is a charitable foundation which was under Internal Revenue Service investigation on charges that its money had been used for business purposes.

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